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SECURITY INFORMATION

German Democratic Republic

INFORMATION ON THE SUPPLY OF MEDICAMENTS AND DRUGS IN THE GDR

It is not definitely known whether medicaments are being hoarded for the eventuality of a war. Deliveries of medical drugs are being made by the GDR to the Soviet Satellites. Recently, some of the allocations of medicaments and antiseptic dressings for the Leipzig hospitals were sent to Korea as a gift. Although part of the production of Jena's pharmaceutical factories is shipped East, these deliveries do not appear to have an adverse effect on the GDR's general medicament-supply situation, which, on the whole, has gradually improved. Because of the lack of organization at the DHZ (German Trade Center), there are supply difficulties; pharmaceutical firms usually do not deliver medicaments directly to hospitals and pharmacies, but deliver them to the DHZ, where they remain instead of being distributed by trained personnel.

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atropine and hyoscyamine are produced in the GDR. Penicillin is produced in sufficient quantities, but it is not as good in quality as that produced in the West. The production of Depot-Penicillin is under way in the GDR; a small percentage of this is received by the hospitals. The other, more effective antibiotics, such as streptomycin and aureomycin, are not obtainable in the GDR. Nitrous oxide is ordinarily not available; for example, the surgical clinic at the University of Jena cannot procure it. On the other hand, the surgeon at the SAG (Soviet Corporation) Agfa-Wolfen plant hospital can obtain this gas from Luebeck. Sufficient quantities of sulfonamide are produced in the GDR, but this drug is not as effective as the Western preparations of this kind. "ronal", is also obtainable in the GDR.

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The greatest shortage of medicaments in the GDR is in the medicines for circulatory disturbances. The East German products of this type, such as Deumacard and Pentedren, are not nearly as good as the well-known Sympatol and Cardiazol. Ephetonin, an East German preparation recently developed for cardiac disturbances, is obtainable in very limited quantities only. Veritol and Veriazol, drugs required for preoperative circulatory examinations, are in particularly short supply. With regard to hormone preparations, the female ovary preparations are available in the GDR, but male hormone preparations are very scarce. There is a complete lack of anterior-pituitary preparations (Prolan) and adrenal-gland preparations (Cortyron), whereas posterior-pituitary preparations (labor-pain drugs) have recently become obtainable. In the field of anti-tubercular drugs, Thebethion (Jenapharm) and highly-concentrated vitamin D (Decristol) are available in the GDR.

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